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PART-VII

GOVERNMENT OF MEGHALAYA NOTIFICATIONS

—
The 13th December, 2018.

No.LL (B). 75/2015/180. - The following Acts passed by the Parliament and assented by the President of India and published in the Gazette of India, Extra-Ordinary, Part II, Section I on the date indicated below are hereby republished for general information.

Sl. No.	Name of Act	Act No. & Year	Date of publication in the Gazette of India
3.	The Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018	Act No. 16 of 2018	26. 07. 2018
4.	The Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018	Act No. 17 of 2018	01. 08. 2018

THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION (AMENDMENT) ACT, 2018

An

Act

further to amend the *Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988*.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-ninth Year of the Republic of the India as follows : -

	<p>1. (1) This Act may be called the Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Act, 2018.</p>	Short title and commencement.
	<p>(2) It shall come into force on such date as the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.</p>	
49 of 1988.	<p>2. In the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (hereinafter referred to as the principal Act), in section 2,-</p> <p>(i) for clause (a), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">‘aa) “prescribed” means prescribed by rules made under this Act and the expression “prescribe” shall be construed accordingly;’;</p> <p>(ii) after clause (c), the following clause shall be inserted, namely :—</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">‘d) “undue advantage” means any gratification whatever, other than legal remuneration.</p> <p><i>Explanation.</i>—For the purposes of this clause, —</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(a) the word “gratification” is not limited to pecuniary gratifications or to gratifications estimable in money;</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">(b) the expression “legal remuneration” is not restricted to remuneration paid to a public servant, but includes all remuneration which he is permitted by the Government or the organisation, which he serves, to receive.’.</p>	Amendment of section 2.
Amendment of section 4.	<p>3. In section 4 of the principal Act, for sub-section (4), the following sub-section shall be substituted, namely :—</p> <p>“(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the trial of an offence shall be held, as far as practicable, on day-to-day basis and an endeavour shall be made to ensure that the said trial is concluded within a period of two years:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Provided that where the trial is not concluded within the said period, the special Judge shall record the reasons for not having done so :</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Provided further that the said period may be extended by such further period, for the reasons to be recorded in writing but not exceeding six months at a time; so, however, that the said period together with such extended period shall not exceed ordinarily four years in aggregate.”.</p>	2 of 1974.

**Substitution
of new sections
for section 7, 8,
9 and 10.**

**Offence relating
to public servant
being bribed.**

4. For sections 7, 8, 9 and 10 of the principal Act, the following sections shall be substituted, namely :—

“7. Any public servant who, —

(a) obtains or accepts or attempts to obtain from any person, an undue advantage, with the intention to perform or cause performance of public duty improperly or dishonestly or to forbear or cause forbearance to perform such duty either by himself or by another public servant; or

(b) obtains or accepts or attempts to obtain, an undue advantage from any person as a reward for the improper or dishonest performance of a public duty or for forbearing to perform such duty either by himself or another public servant; or

(c) performs or induces another public servant to perform improperly or dishonestly a public duty or to forbear performance of such duty in anticipation of or in consequence of accepting an undue advantage from any person, shall be punishable, with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanation 1.—For the purpose of this section, the obtaining, accepting or the attempting to obtain an undue advantage shall itself constitute an offence even if the performance of a public duty by public servant, is not or has not been improper.

Illustration. — A public servant, ‘S’ asks a person, ‘P’ to give him an amount of five thousand rupees to process his routine ration card application on time. ‘S’ is *guilty* of an offence under this section.

Explanation 2. — For the purpose of this section, —

(i) the expressions “obtains” or “accepts” or “attempts to obtain” shall cover cases where a person being a public servant, obtains or “accepts” or attempts to obtain, any undue advantage for himself or for another person, by abusing his position as a public servant or by using his personal influence over another public servant; or by any other corrupt or illegal means;

(ii) it shall be immaterial whether such person being a public servant obtains or accepts, or attempts to obtain the undue advantage directly or through a third party.

“7A. Whoever accepts or obtains or attempts to obtain from another person for himself or for any other person any undue advantage as a motive or reward to induce a public servant, by corrupt or illegal means or by exercise of his personal influence to perform or to cause performance of a public duty improperly or dishonestly or to forbear or to cause to forbear such public duty by such public servant or by another public servant, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

**Taking undue
advantage to
influence public
servant by
corrupt or illegal
means or by
exercise of
personal
influence.**

8. (1) Any person who gives or promises to give an undue advantage to another person or persons, with intention —

Offence relating to bribing of a public servant.

(i) to induce a public servant to perform improperly a public duty; or

(ii) to reward such public servant for the improper performance of public duty; shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to seven years or with fine or with both:

Provided that the provisions of this section shall not apply where a person is compelled to give such undue advantage :

Provided further that the person so compelled shall report the matter to the law enforcement authority or investigating agency within a period of seven days from the date of giving such undue advantage :

Provided also that when the offence under this section has been committed by commercial organisation, such commercial organisation shall be punishable with fine.

Illustration—A person, 'P' gives a public servant, 'S' an amount of ten thousand rupees to ensure that he is granted a license, over all the other bidders. 'P' is guilty of an offence under this sub-section.

Explanation.—It shall be immaterial whether the person to whom an undue advantage is given or promised to be given is the same person as the person who is to perform, or has performed, the public duty concerned, and, it shall also be immaterial whether such undue advantage is given or promised to be given by the person directly or through a third party.

(2) Nothing in sub-section (1) shall apply to a person, if that person, after informing a law enforcement authority or investigating agency, gives or promises to give any undue advantage to another person in order to assist such law enforcement authority or investigating agency in its investigation of the offence alleged against the later.

9. (1) Where an offence under this Act has been committed by a commercial organisation, such organisation shall be punishable with fine, if any person associated with such commercial organisation gives or promises to give any undue advantage to a public servant intending —

Offence relating to bribing of a public servant by a commercial organisation.

(a) to obtain or retain business for such commercial organisation; or

(b) to obtain or retain an advantage in the conduct of business for such commercial organisation :

Provided that it shall be a defence for the commercial organisation to prove that it had in place adequate procedures in compliance of such guidelines as may be prescribed to prevent persons associated with it from undertaking such conduct.

(2) For the purposes of this section, a person is said to give or promise to give any undue advantage to a public servant, if he is alleged to have committed the offence under section 8, whether or

not such person has been prosecuted for such offence.

(3) For the purposes of section 8 and this section, —

(a) “commercial organisation” means —

(i) a body which is incorporated in India and which carries on a business, whether in India or outside India;

(ii) any other body which is incorporated outside India and which carries on a business, or part of a business, in any part of India;

(iii) a partnership firm or any association of persons formed in India and which carries on a business whether in India or outside India; or

(iv) any other partnership or association of persons which is formed outside India and which carries on a business, or part of a business, in any part of India;

(b) “business” includes a trade or profession or providing service;

(c) a person is said to be associated with the commercial organisation, if such person performs services for or on behalf of the commercial organisation irrespective of any promise to give or giving of any undue advantage which constitutes an offence under sub-section (1).

Explanation 1.—The capacity in which the person performs services for or on behalf of the commercial organisation shall not matter irrespective of whether such person is employee or agent or subsidiary of such commercial organisation.

Explanation 2.—Whether or not the person is a person who performs services for or on behalf of the commercial organisation is to be determined by reference to all the relevant circumstances and not merely by reference to the nature of the relationship between such person and the commercial organisation.

Explanation 3.—If the person is an employee of the commercial organisation, it shall be presumed unless the contrary is proved that such person is a person who has performed services for or on behalf of the commercial organisation.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973, the offence under sections 7 A, 8 and this section shall be cognizable.

2 of 1974.

(5) The Central Government shall, in consultation with the concerned stakeholders including departments and with a view to preventing persons associated with commercial organisations from bribing any person, being a public servant, prescribe such guidelines as may be considered necessary which can be put in place for compliance by such organisations.

Person incharge of commercial organisation to be guilty of offence.

10. Where an offence under section 9 is committed by a commercial organisation, and such offence is proved in the court to have been committed with the consent or connivance of any director, manager, secretary or other officer shall be of the commercial organisation, such director, manager, secretary or other officer shall be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than three years but which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, “director”, in relation to a firm means a partner in the firm.”.

Amendment of section 11.

5. In section 11 of the principal Act, —

(i) in the marginal heading, for the words “valuable thing”, the words “undue advantage” shall be substituted;

(ii) the words “or agrees to accept” shall be omitted;

(iii) for the words “valuable thing”, the words “undue advantage” shall be substituted;

(iv) for the words “official functions”, the words “official functions or public duty” shall be substituted.

Substitution of a new section for section 12.

6. For section 12 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“12. Whoever abets any offence punishable under this Act, whether or not that offence is committed in consequence of that abetment, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall be not less than three years, but which may extend to seven years and shall also be liable to fine.”.

Punishment for abetment of offences.

7. In section 13 of the principal Act, for sub-section (/), the following shall be substituted, namely :—

Amendment of section 13.

“(1) A public servant is said to commit the offence of criminal misconduct, —

(a) if he dishonestly or fraudulently misappropriates or otherwise converts for his own use any property entrusted to him or any property under his control as a public servant or allows any other person so to do; or

(b) if he intentionally enriches himself illicitly during the period of his office.

Explanation 1.—A person shall be presumed to have intentionally enriched himself illicitly if he or any person on his behalf, is in possession of or has, at any time during the period of his office, been in possession of pecuniary resources or property disproportionate to his known sources of income which the public servant cannot satisfactorily account for.

Explanation 2.—The expression “known sources of income” means income received from any lawful sources.”.

8. For section 14 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

Substitution of new section for section 14.

“14. Whoever convicted of an offence under this Act subsequently commits an offence punishable under this Act, shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which shall be not less than five years but which may extend to ten years and shall also be liable to fine.”.

Punishment for habitual offender.

9. In section 15 of the principal Act, for the words, brackets and letters “clause (c) or clause (d)”, the word, brackets, and letter “clause (a)” shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 15.

10. In section 16 of the principal Act, —

Amendment of section 16.

(a) for the words, brackets and figures, “sub-section (2) of section 13 or section 14”, the words, figures and brackets “section 7 or section 8 or section 9 or section 10 or section 11 or sub-section (2) of section 13 or section 14 or section 15” shall be substituted;

(b) for the word, brackets and letter “clause (e)”, the word, brackets and letter “clause (b)” shall be substituted.

11. In section 17 of the principal Act, in the second proviso, for the words, brackets, letter and figure “clause (e) of sub-section (1)”, the words, brackets, letter and figure “clause (b) of sub-section (1)” shall be substituted.

Amendment of section 17.

12. After section 17 of the principal Act, the following section shall be inserted, namely :—

Insertion of new section 17A.

“ 17A. (1) No police officer shall conduct any enquiry or inquiry or investigation into any offence alleged to have been committed by a public servant under this Act, where the alleged offence is relatable to any recommendation made or decision taken by such public servant in discharge of his official functions or duties, without the previous approval —

Enquiry or Inquiry or investigation of offences relatable to recommendations made or decision taken by public servant in discharge of official functions or duties.

(a) in the case of a person who is or was employed, at the time when the offence was alleged to have been committed, in connection with the affairs of the Union, of that Government;

(b) in the case of a person who is or was employed, at the time when the offence was alleged to have been committed, in connection with the affairs of a State, of that Government;

(c) in the case of any other person, of the authority competent to remove him from his office, at the time when the offence was alleged to have been committed :

Provided that no such approval shall be necessary for cases involving arrest of a person on the spot on the charge of accepting or attempting to accept any undue advantage for himself or for any other person :

Provided further that the concerned authority shall convey its decision under this section within a period of three months, which may, for reasons to be recorded in writing by such authority, be extended by a further period of one month.”.

Insertion of new Chapter IVA.

13. After Chapter IV of the principal Act, the following Chapter shall be inserted, namely :—

‘CHAPTER IVA

ATTACHMENT AND FORFEITURE OF PROPERTY

Provisions of Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 to apply to attachment under this Act.

18A. (1) Save as otherwise provided under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 shall, as far as may be, apply to the attachment, administration of attached property and execution of order of attachment or confiscation of money or property procured by means of an offence under this Act.

**15 of 2003.
Ord. 38 of 1944.**

(2) For the purposes of this Act, the provisions of the Criminal Law Amendment Ordinance, 1944 shall have effect, subject to the modification that the references to “District Judge” shall be construed as references to “Special Judge”.

Ord. 38 of 1944.

Amendment of section 19.

14. In section 19 of the principal Act, in sub-section (1), —

(i) for the words and figures “sections 7, 10, 11, 13 and 15”, the words and figures “sections 7, 11, 13 and 15” shall be substituted;

(ii) in clause (a), for the words “who is employed”, the words “who is employed, or as the case may be, was at the time of commission of the alleged offence employed” shall be substituted;

(iii) in clause (b), for the words “who is employed”, the words “who is employed, or as the case may be, was at the time of commission of the alleged offence employed” shall be substituted;

(iv) after clause (c), the following shall be inserted, namely :—

“Provided that no request can be made, by a person other than a police officer or an officer of an investigation agency or other law enforcement authority, to the appropriate Government or competent authority, as the case may be, for the previous sanction of such Government or authority for taking cognizance by the court of any of the offences specified in this sub-section, unless —

(i) such person has filed a complaint in a competent court about the alleged offences for which the public servant is sought to be prosecuted; and

(ii) the court has not dismissed the complaint under section 203 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and directed the complainant to obtain the sanction for prosecution against the public servant for further proceeding:

2 of 1974

Provided further that in the case of request from the person other than a police officer or an officer of an investigation agency or other law enforcement authority, the appropriate Government or competent authority shall not accord sanction to prosecute a public servant without providing an opportunity of being heard to the concerned public servant :

Provided also that the appropriate Government or any competent authority shall, after the receipt of the proposal requiring sanction for prosecution of a public servant under this sub-section, endeavour to convey the decision on such proposal within a period of three months from the date of its receipt :

Provided also that in case where, for the purpose of grant of sanction for prosecution, legal consultation is required, such period may, for the reasons to be recorded in writing, be extended by a further period of one month :

Provided also that the Central Government may, for the purpose of sanction for prosecution of a public servant, prescribe such guidelines as it considers necessary.

Explanation. — For the purposes of sub-section (1), the expression “public servant” includes such person —

(a) who has ceased to hold the office during which the offence is alleged to have been committed; or

(b) who has ceased to hold the office during which the offence is alleged to have been committed and is holding an office other than the office during which the offence is alleged to have been committed.”.

15. For section 20 of the principal Act, the following section shall be substituted, namely :—

“20. Where, in any trial of an offence punishable under section 7 or under section 11, it is proved that a public servant accused of an offence has accepted or obtained or attempted to obtain for himself, or for any other person, any undue advantage from any person, it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that he accepted or obtained or attempted to obtain that undue advantage, as a motive or reward under section 7 for performing or to cause performance of a public duty improperly or dishonestly either by himself or by another public servant or, as the case may be, any undue advantage without consideration or for a consideration which he knows to be inadequate under section 11.”.

16. In section 23 of the principal Act, —

(a) in the marginal heading, for the word, figures, brackets and letter “section 13 (1) (c)”, the word, figures, brackets and letter “section 13 (1) (A)” shall be substituted;

(b) for the word, brackets and letter “clause (c)”, the word, brackets and letter “clause (a)” shall be substituted.

17. Section 24 of the principal Act shall be omitted.

18. After section 29 of the principal Act, the following section namely :—

“29A. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely :—

(a) guidelines which can be put in place by commercial organisation under section 9;”.

(b) guidelines for sanction of prosecution under sub-section (1) of section 19;”.

Substitution of new section for section 20.

Presumption where public servant accepts any undue advantage.

Amendment of section 23.

Omission of section 24.

Insertion of new section 29A.

Power to make rules.

(c) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed.

(3) Every rule made under this Act, shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule, or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.”.

**Amendment of
Act 15 of 2003.**

19. In the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, in Part A of the Schedule, for Paragraph 8, the following Paragraph shall be substituted, namely :—

“PARAGRAPHS

OFFENCES UNDER THE PREVENTION OF CORRUPTION ACT, 1988

(49 OF 1988)

Section Description of offence.

7. Offence relating to public servant being bribed.
- 7A. Taking undue advantage to influence public servant by corrupt or illegal means or by exercise of personal influence.
8. Offence relating to bribing a public servant.
9. Offence relating to bribing a public servant by a commercial organisation.
10. Person in charge of commercial organisation to be guilty of offence.
11. Public servant obtaining undue advantage, without consideration from person concerned in proceeding or business transacted by such public servant.
12. Punishment for abetment of offences.
13. Criminal misconduct by a public servant.
14. Punishment for habitual offender.”.

THE FUGITIVE ECONOMIC OFFENDERS ACT, 2018

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. Short title, extent and commencement.
2. Definitions.
3. Application of Act

CHAPTER II

DECLARATION OF FUGITIVE ECONOMIC OFFENDERS AND

CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY

4. Application for declaration of fugitive economic offender and procedure therefor.
5. Attachment of property.
6. Powers of Director and other Officers.
7. Powers of survey.
8. Search and seizure.
9. Search of persons
10. Notice.
11. Procedure for hearing application.
12. Declaration of fugitive economic offender
13. Supplementary application
14. Power to disallow civil claims
15. Management of properties confiscated under this Act.

CHAPTER III

MISCELLANEOUS

16. Rules of evidence.
17. Appeal.
18. Bar of jurisdiction.
19. Protection of action taken in good faith.
20. Power of Central Government to amend Schedule.
21. Overriding effect.
22. Application of other laws not barred.
23. Power to make rules.
24. Laying of rules before Parliament.
25. Power to remove difficulties.
26. Repeal and saving.

THE SCHEDULE.

THE FUGITIVE ECONOMIC OFFENDERS ACT, 2018

An

Act

to provide for measures to deter fugitive economic offenders from evading the process of law in India by staying outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts, to preserve the sanctity of the rule of law in India and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Be it enacted by Parliament in the Sixty-ninth Year of the Republic of India as follows :-

CHAPTER I

PRELIMINARY

1. (1) This Act may be called the Fugitive Economic Offenders Act, 2018.

Short title extent
and
commencement.

(2) It extends to the whole of India.

(3) It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 21st day of April, 2018.

Definations.

2. (1) In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “Administrator” means an Administrator appointed under sub-section (1) of section 15;

(b) “benami property” and “benami transaction” shall have the same meanings as assigned to them under clauses (8) and (9) respectively of section 2 of the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988;

45 of 1988.

(c) “contracting State” means any country or place outside India in respect of which arrangements have been made by the Central Government with the Government of such country through a treaty or otherwise;

(d) “Deputy Director” means the Deputy Director appointed under sub-section (1) of section 49 of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002;

15 of 2003.

(e) “Director” means the Director appointed under sub-section (1) of section 49 of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002;

15 of 2003.

(f) “fugitive economic offender” means any individual against whom a warrant for arrest in relation to a Scheduled Offence has been issued by any Court in India, who—

(i) has left India so as to avoid criminal prosecution; or

(ii) being abroad, refuses to return to India to face criminal prosecution;

(g) "key managerial personnel" shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (51) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013;

18 of 2013.

(h) "notification" means a notification published in the Official Gazette and the expression "notify" shall be construed accordingly;

(i) "person" includes—

(i) an individual;

(ii) a Hindu Undivided Family;

(iii) a company;

(iv) a trust;

(v) a partnership;

(vi) a limited liability partnership;

(vii) an association of persons or a body of individuals, whether incorporated or not;

(viii) every artificial juridical person not falling within any of the preceding sub-clauses; and

(ix) any agency, office or branch owned or controlled by any of the above persons mentioned in the preceding sub-clauses;

(j) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;

(k) "proceeds of crime" means any property derived or obtained, directly or indirectly, by any person as a result of criminal activity relating to a Scheduled Offence, or the value of any such property, or where such property is taken or held outside the country, then the property equivalent in value held within the country or abroad;

(l) "Schedule" means the Schedule appended to this Act;

(m) "Scheduled Offence" means an offence specified in the Schedule, if the total value involved in such offence or offences is one hundred crore rupees or more;

(n) "Special Court" means a Court of Session designated as a Special Court under sub-section (1) of section 43 of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002.

15 of 2003.

15 of 2003.

(2) The words and expressions used and not defined in this Act but defined in the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act.

3. The provisions of this Act shall apply to any individual who is, or becomes, a fugitive economic offender on or after the date of coming into force of this Act.

Application of Act.

CHAPTER II

DECLARATION OF FUGITIVE ECONOMIC OFFENDERS AND CONFISCATION OF PROPERTY

4. (1) Where the Director or any other officer not below the rank of Deputy Director authorised by the Director for the purposes of this section, has reason to believe (the reasons for such belief to be recorded in writing), on the basis of material in his possession, that any individual is a fugitive economic offender, he may file an application in such form and manner as

Application for declaration of fugitive economic offender and procedure therefor.

may be prescribed in the Special Court that such individual may be declared as a fugitive economic offender.

(2) The application referred to in sub-section (1) shall contain—

(a) reasons for the belief that an individual is a fugitive economic offender;

(b) any information available as to the whereabouts of the fugitive economic offender;

(c) a list of properties or the value of such properties believed to be the proceeds of crime, including any such property outside India for which confiscation is sought;

(d) a list of properties or benami properties owned by the individual in India or abroad for which confiscation is sought; and

(e) a list of persons who may have an interest in any of the properties listed under clauses (c) and (d)

15 of 2003.

(3) The Authorities appointed for the purposes of the Prevention of Money-laundering Act, 2002 shall be the Authorities for the purposes of this Act.

5. (1) The Director or any other officer authorised by the Director, not below the rank of Deputy Director, may, with the permission of the Special Court, attach any property mentioned in the application under section 4 by an order in writing in such manner as may be prescribed

Attachment of property.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1) or section 4, the Director or any other officer, not below the rank of Deputy Director, authorised by the Director, may, by an order in writing, at any time prior to the filing of the application under section 4, attach any property—

(a) for which there is a reason to believe that the property is proceeds of crime, or is a property or benami property owned by an individual who is a fugitive economic offender; and

(b) which is being or is likely to be dealt with in a manner which may result in the property being unavailable for confiscation:

Provided that the Director or any other officer who provisionally attaches any property under this sub-section shall, within a period of thirty days from the date of such attachment, file an application under section 4 before the Special Court.

(3) The attachment of any property under this section shall continue for a period of one hundred and eighty days from the date of order of attachment or such other period as may be extended by the Special Court before the expiry of such period.

(4) Nothing in this section shall prevent the person interested in the enjoyment of the immovable property attached under sub-section (1) from such enjoyment.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this sub-section, the expression “person interested”, in relation to any immovable property includes all persons claiming or entitled to claim any interest in the property.

Powers of Director and other officers.

6. The Director or any other officer shall, for the purposes of section 4, have the same powers as are vested in a civil court under the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 while trying a suit in respect of the following matters, namely:—

5 of 1908.

(a) discovery and inspection;

(b) enforcing the attendance of any person, including any officer of a reporting entity and examining him on oath;

(c) compelling the production of records;

(d) receiving evidence on affidavits;

(e) issuing commissions for examination of witnesses and documents; and

(f) any other matter which may be prescribed.

Power of survey

7. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other provisions of this Act, where a Director or any other officer authorised by the Director, on the basis of material in his possession, has reason to believe (the reasons for such belief to be recorded in writing), that an individual may be a fugitive economic offender, he may enter any place—

(i) within the limits of the area assigned to him; or

(ii) in respect of which he is authorised for the purposes of this section, by such other authority, who is assigned the area within which such place is situated.

(2) Where the Director or any other officer authorised by him, on the basis of material in his possession, has reason to believe (the reasons for such belief to be recorded in writing) that an individual may be a fugitive economic offender and it is necessary to enter any place as mentioned in sub-section (1), he may request any proprietor, employee or any other person who may be present at that time, to—

(a) afford him the necessary facility to inspect such records as he may require and which may be available at such place;

(b) afford him the necessary facility to check or verify the proceeds of crime or any transaction related to proceeds of crime which may be found therein; and

(c) furnish such information as he may require as to any matter which may be useful for, or relevant to any proceedings under this Act.

(3) The Director, or any other officer acting under this section may—

(i) place marks of identification on the records inspected by him and make or cause to be made extracts or copies therefrom;

(ii) make an inventory of any property checked or verified by him; and

Search and
seizure.

(iii) record the statement of any person present at the property which may be useful for, or relevant to, any proceeding under this Act.

8. (1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, where the Director or any other officer not below the rank of Deputy Director authorised by him for the purposes of this section, on the basis of information in his possession, has reason to believe (the reason for such belief to be recorded in writing) that any person—

(i) may be declared as a fugitive economic offender;

(ii) is in possession of any proceeds of crime;

(iii) is in possession of any records which may relate to proceeds of crime; or

(iv) is in possession of any property related to proceeds of crime,

then, subject to any rules made in this behalf, he may authorise any officer subordinate to him to—

(a) enter and search any building, place, vessel, vehicle or aircraft where he has reason to suspect that such records or proceeds of crime are kept;

(b) break open the lock of any door, box, locker, safe, almirah or other receptacle for exercising the powers conferred by clause (a) where the keys thereof are not available;

(c) seize any record or property found as a result of such search;

(d) place marks of identification on such record or property, if required or make or cause to be made extracts or copies therefrom;

(e) make a note or an inventory of such record or property; and

(f) examine on oath any person, who is found to be in possession or control of any record or property, in respect of all matters relevant for the purposes of any investigation under this Act.

(2) Where an authority, upon information obtained during survey under section 7, is satisfied that any evidence shall be or is likely to be concealed or tampered with, he may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, enter and search the building or place where such evidence is located and seize that evidence.

9. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force—

Search of
persons.

(a) if an authority, authorised in this behalf by the Central Government by general or special order, has reason to believe (the reason for such belief to be recorded in writing) that any person has secreted about his person or anything under his possession, ownership or control, any record or proceeds of crime which may be useful for or relevant to any proceedings under this Act, he may search that person and seize such record or property which may be useful for or relevant to any proceedings under this Act;

(b) where an authority is about to search any person, he shall, if such person so requires, take such person within twenty-four hours to the nearest Gazetted Officer, superior in rank to him, or a Magistrate:

Provided that the period of twenty-four hours shall exclude the time necessary for the journey undertaken to take such person to the nearest Gazetted Officer, superior in rank to him, or the Magistrate's Court;

(c) if the requisition under clause (b) is made, the authority shall not detain the person for more than twenty-four hours prior to taking him before the Gazetted Officer, superior in rank to him, or the Magistrate referred to in that clause:

Provided that the period of twenty-four hours shall exclude the time necessary for the journey from the place of detention to the office of the Gazetted Officer, superior in rank to him, or the Magistrate's Court;

(d) the Gazetted Officer or the Magistrate before whom any such person is brought shall, if he sees no reasonable ground for search, forthwith discharge such person but otherwise shall direct that search be made;

(e) before making the search under clause (a) or clause (d), the authority shall call upon two or more persons to attend and witness the search and the search shall be made in the presence of such persons;

(f) the authority shall prepare a list of record or property seized in the course of the search and obtain the signatures of the witnesses on the list;

(g) no female shall be searched by anyone except a female; and

(h) the authority shall record the statement of the person searched under clause (a) or clause (d) in respect of the records or proceeds of crime found or seized in the course of the search.

Notice.

10. (1) Where an application under section 4 has been duly filed, the Special Court shall issue a notice to an individual who is alleged to be a fugitive economic offender.

(2) The notice referred to in sub-section (1), shall also be issued to any other person who has any interest in the property mentioned in the application under sub-section (2) of section 4.

(3) A notice under sub-section (1) shall—

(a) require the individual to appear at a specified place and time not less than six weeks from the date of issue of such notice; and

(b) state that failure to appear on the specified place and time shall result in a declaration of the individual as a fugitive economic offender and confiscation of property under this Act.

(4) A notice under sub-section (1) shall be forwarded to such authority, as the Central Government may notify, for effecting service in a contracting State.

(5) The authority referred to in sub-section (4) shall make efforts to serve the notice within a period of two weeks in such manner as may be prescribed.

(6) A notice under sub-section (1) may also be served to the individual alleged to be a fugitive economic offender by electronic means to—

43 of 1961.

(a) his electronic mail address submitted in connection with an application for allotment of Permanent Account Number under section 139A of the Income-tax Act, 1961;

18 of 2016.

(b) his electronic mail address submitted in connection with an application for enrolment under section 3 of the Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016; or

(c) any other electronic account as may be prescribed, belonging to the individual which is accessed by him over the internet, subject to the satisfaction of the Special Court that such account has been recently accessed by the individual and constitutes a reasonable method for communication of the notice to the individual.

Procedure for
hearing
application.

11. (1) Where any individual to whom notice has been issued under sub-section (7) of section 10 appears in person at the place and time specified in the notice, the Special Court may terminate the proceedings under this Act.

(2) Where any individual to whom notice has been issued under sub-section (1) of section 10 fails to appear at the place and time specified in the notice, but enters appearance through counsel, the Special Court may in its discretion give a period of one week to file a reply to the application under section 4.

(3) Where any individual to whom notice has been issued under sub-section (1) of section 10 fails to enter appearance either in person or through counsel, and the Special Court is satisfied—

(a) that service of notice has been effected on such party; or

(b) that notice could not be served in spite of best efforts because such individual has evaded service of notice, it may, after recording reasons in writing, proceed to hear the application.

(4) The Special Court may also give any person to whom notice has been issued under sub-section (2) of section 10 a period of one week to file a reply to the application under section 4.

12. (1) After hearing the application under section 4, if the Special Court is satisfied that an individual is a fugitive economic offender, it may, by an order, declare the individual as a fugitive economic offender for reasons to be recorded in writing.

Declaration of
fugitive economic
offender.

(2) On a declaration under sub-section (1), the Special Court may order that any of the following properties stand confiscated to the Central Government—

(a) the proceeds of crime in India or abroad, whether or not such property is owned by the fugitive economic offender; and

(b) any other property or benami property in India or abroad, owned by the fugitive economic offender.

(3) The confiscation order of the Special Court shall, to the extent possible, identify the properties in India or abroad that constitute proceeds of crime which are to be confiscated and in case such properties cannot be identified, quantify the value of the proceeds of crime.

(4) The confiscation order of the Special Court shall separately list any other property owned by the fugitive economic offender in India which is to be confiscated.

(5) Where the Special Court has made an order for confiscation of any property under sub-section (2) and such property is in a contracting State, the Special Court may issue a letter of request to a Court or authority in the contracting State for execution of such order.

(6) Every letter of request to be transmitted to a contracting State under sub-section (5) shall be transmitted in such form and manner as the Central Government may, by notification, specify in this behalf.

(7) The Special Court may, while making the confiscation order, exempt from confiscation any property which is a proceed of crime in which any other person, other than the fugitive economic offender, has an interest if it is satisfied that such interest was acquired *bonafide* and without knowledge of the fact that the property was proceeds of crime.

(8) All the rights and title in the confiscated property shall, from the date of the confiscation order, vest in the Central Government, free from all encumbrances.

(9) Where on the conclusion of the proceedings, the Special Court finds that the individual is not a fugitive economic offender, the Special Court shall order release of property or record attached or seized under this Act to the person entitled to receive it.

(10) Where an order releasing the property has been made by the Special Court under sub-section (9) the Director or any other officer authorised by him in this behalf may withhold the release of any such property or record for a period of ninety days from the date of receipt of such order, if he is of the opinion that such property is relevant for the appeal proceedings under this Act

13. (1) Where at any time after the institution of the application under section 4, any other property is discovered or identified which constitutes proceeds of crime or is property or benami property owned by the individual in India or abroad who is a fugitive economic offender liable to be confiscated under this Act, the Director or any other officer not below the rank of Deputy Director authorised by the Director for the purposes of this section, may file a supplementary application in the Special Court seeking confiscation of such properties.

Supplementary application.

(2) The provisions of sections 4 to 12 shall, as far as may be, apply in relation to such application as they apply in relation to an application under section 4.

14. Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force,—

Power to disallow civil claim.

(a) on a declaration of an individual as a fugitive economic offender, any Court or tribunal in India, in any civil proceeding before it, may, disallow such individual from putting forward or defending any civil claim; and

(b) any Court or tribunal in India in any civil proceeding before it, may, disallow any company or limited liability partnership from putting forward or defending any civil claim, if an individual filing the claim on behalf of the company or the limited liability partnership, or any promoter or key managerial personnel or majority shareholder of the company or an individual having a controlling interest in the limited liability partnership has been declared as a fugitive economic offender.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this section, the expressions—

(a) “company” means any body corporate and includes a firm, or other association of persons; and

(b) “limited liability partnership” shall have the same meaning as assigned to it in clause (n) of sub-section (1) of section 2 of the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008.

Management of
Properties confis-
cated under this Act.

15. (1) The Central Government may, by order published in the Official Gazette, appoint as many of its officers (not below the rank of a Joint Secretary to the Government of India) as it thinks fit, to perform the functions of an Administrator.

6 of 2009

(2) The Administrator appointed under sub-section (1) shall receive and manage the property in relation to which an order has been made under sub-section (2) of section 12 in such manner and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.

(3) The Administrator shall also take such measures, as the Central Government may direct, to dispose of the property which is vested in the Central Government under section 12:

Provided that the Central Government or the Administrator shall not dispose of any property for a period of ninety days from the date of the order under sub-section (2) of section 12.

CHAPTER III

MISCELLANEOUS

Rules of
evidence.

16. (1) The burden of proof for establishing—

(a) that an individual is a fugitive economic offender; or

(b) that a property is the proceeds of crime or any other property in which the individual alleged to be a fugitive economic offender has an interest, shall be on the Director or the person authorised by the Director to file the application under section 4.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, where any person referred to in sub-section (2) of section 10 claims that any interest in any property was acquired *bonafide* and without knowledge of the fact that, such property constitutes proceeds of crime, the burden of proving such fact shall lie upon him.

(3) The standard of proof applicable to the determination of facts by the Special Court under this Act shall be preponderance of probabilities.

Appeal.

17. (1) An appeal shall lie from any judgment or order, not being an interlocutory order, of a Special Court to the High Court both on facts and on law.

(2) Every appeal under this section shall be preferred within a period of thirty days from the date of the judgment or order appealed from:

Provided that the High Court may entertain an appeal after the expiry of the said period of thirty days, if it is satisfied that the appellant had sufficient cause for not preferring the appeal within the period of thirty days:

Provided further that no appeal shall be entertained after the expiry of period of ninety days.

18. No civil court shall have jurisdiction to entertain any suit or proceeding in respect of any matter which the Special Court is empowered by or under this Act to determine and no injunction shall be granted by any court or other authority in respect of any action taken or to be taken in pursuance of any power conferred by or under this Act.

Bar of jurisdiction.

19. No suit, prosecution or other legal proceeding shall lie against the Central Government or Presiding Officer of the Special Court or Director or Deputy Director or any other officer authorised by the Director for anything which is in good faith done or intended to be done under this Act or any rule made thereunder.

Protection of action taken in good faith.

20 (1) The Central Government may, having regard to the objects of this Act, and if it considers necessary or expedient so to do, by notification add to, or as the case may be, omit from the Schedule any offences specified therein.

Power of Central Government to amend Schedule.

(2) Every such notification shall, as soon as after it is issued, be laid before each House of Parliament;

21. The provisions of this Act shall have effect, notwithstanding anything inconsistent therewith contained in any other law for the time being in force.

Overriding effect.

22. The provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force.

Application of other laws not barred.

23. (1) The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act.

Power to make rules.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the form and manner of filing application under sub-section (1) of section 4;

(b) the manner of attachment of property under sub-section (1) of section 5;

(c) other matters under clause (f) of section 6;

(d) the procedure for conducting search and seizure under section 8;

(e) the manner in which the notice shall be served under sub-section (5) of section 10;

(f) any other electronic account under clause (c) of sub-section (6) of section 10;

(g) the manner and conditions subject to which the Administrator shall receive and manage the property confiscated under sub-section (2) of section 15; and

(h) any other matter which is required to be, or may be, prescribed or in respect of which provision is to be made by rules.

24. Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both Houses agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

Laying of rules
before Parliament.

25. (1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may appear to be necessary for removing the difficulty:

Power to remove
difficulties.

Provided that no order shall be made under this section after the expiry of five years from the date of commencement of this Act.

(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.

Ord. 1 of 2018.

26. (1) The Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, 2018, is hereby repealed.

Repeal and
saving.

(2) Notwithstanding such repeal, anything done or any action taken under the said Ordinance, shall be deemed to have been done or taken under this Act.

THE SCHEDULE

[See section 2(l) and (m)]

Section	Description of offence
I. Offences under the Indian Penal Code, 1860 (45 of 1860)	
120B read with any offence in this Schedule	Punishment of criminal conspiracy.
255	Counterfeiting Government stamp.
257	Making or selling instrument for counterfeiting Government stamp.
258	Sale of counterfeit Government stamp.
259	Having possession of counterfeit Government stamp.
260	Using as genuine a Government stamp known to be counterfeit.
417	Punishment for cheating.
418	Cheating with knowledge that wrongful loss may ensue to person whose interest offender is bound to protect.
420	Cheating and dishonestly inducing delivery of property.
421	Dishonest or fraudulent removal or concealment of property to prevent distribution among creditors.
422	Dishonestly or fraudulently preventing debt being available for creditors.
423	Dishonest or fraudulent execution of deed of transfer containing false statement of consideration.
424	Dishonest or fraudulent removal or concealment of property.
467	Forgery of valuable security, will, etc.
471	Using as genuine a forged [document or electronic record].
472	Making or possessing counterfeit seal, etc., with intent to commit forgery punishable under section 467.
473	Making or possessing counterfeit seal, etc., intent to commit forgery punishable otherwise.
475	Counterfeiting device or mark used for authenticating documents described in section or possessing counterfeit marked material.
476	Counterfeiting device or mark used for authenticating documents other than those described in section 467, or possessing counterfeit marked material.
481	Using a false property mark.
482	Punishment for using a false property mark.
483	Counterfeiting a property mark used by another.
484	Counterfeiting a mark used by a public servant.
485	Making or possession of any instrument for counterfeiting a property mark.
486	Selling goods marked with a counterfeit property property mark.

Section	Description of offence
487	Making a false mark upon any receptacle containing goods.
488	Punishment for making use of any such false mark.
489A	Counterfeiting currency notes or bank notes.
489B	Using as genuine, forged or counterfeit currency notes or bank notes.
II.	Offences under the Negotiable Instruments Acts, 1881 (26 of 1881)
138	Dishonour of cheque for insufficiency, etc. of funds in the account.
III.	Offences under the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (2 of 1934)
58B	Penalties.
IV.	Offences under the Central Excise Act, 1944 (1 of 1944)
Section 9	Offences and Penalties.
V.	Offences under the Customs Act, 1962 (52 of 1962)
135	Evasion of duty or prohibitions.
VI.	Offences under the Prohibition of Benami Property Transactions Act, 1988 (45 of 1988)
3	Prohibition of benami transactions
VII.	Offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988 (49 of 1988)
7	Public servant taking gratification other than legal remuneration in respect of an official act.
8	Taking gratification in order, by corrupt or illegal means, to influence public servant.
9	Taking gratification for exercise of personal influence with public servant.
10	Punishment for abetment by public servant of offences defined in section 8 or section 9 of the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.
13	Criminal misconduct by a public servant.
VIII.	Offences under the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992)
12A read with section 24	Prohibition of manipulative and deceptive devices, insider trading and substantial acquisition of securities or control.
24	Offences for contravention of the provisions of the Act.
IX.	Offences under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 (15 of 2003)
3	Offences of money-laundering.
4.	Punishment for money-laundering.
X.	Offences under the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008 (6 of 2009)
Sub-section (2) of section 30	Carrying on business with intent or purpose to defraud creditors of the Limited Liability Partnership or any other person or for any other fraudulent purpose.

Section	Description of offence
XI. Offences under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010 (42 of 2010)	
34	Penalty for article or currency or security obtained in contravention of Section 10.
35.	Punishment for contravention of any provision of the Act.
XII. Offences under the Companies Act, 2013 (18 of 2013)	
Sub-Section (4) of section 42 of the Companies Act, 2013 <i>read with</i> section 24 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 (15 of 1992)	Offer or invitation for subscription of securities on private placement
74	Repayment of deposits, etc., accepted before commencement of the Companies Act, 2013.
76A	Punishment for contravention of Section 73 or section 76 of the Companies Act, 2013.
Second proviso to sub-section (4) of section 206.	Carrying on business of a company for a fraudulent or unlawful purpose.
Clause (b) of section 213	Conducting the business of a company with intent to defraud its creditors, members or any other persons or otherwise for a fraudulent or unlawful purpose, or in a manner oppressive to any of its members or that the company was formed for any fraudulent or unlawful purpose.
447	Punishment for fraud.
452	Punishment for wrongful withholding of property.
XIII. Offences under the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 (22 of 2015)	
51	Punishment for wilful attempt to evade tax.
XIV. Offences under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (31 of 2016)	
69	Punishment for transactions defrauding creditors.
XV. Offences under the Central Goods and Services Tax Act, 2017 (12 of 2017)	
Sub-section (5) of section 132	Punishment for certain offences.

L. A. LYNDEN,

Under Secretary to the Govt. of Meghalaya,
Law (B) Department.